

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND:LW
APPROVED BY NEA/P:REUNDELAND
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER
H - MR. FLATEN
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. MARTHINSEN
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM
-----062306 150020Z /12

O 142336Z JUN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
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USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
SECDEF WASHDC 0000

JCS WASHDC 0000
CIA WASHDC 0000
USICA
NSC WASHDC 0000

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JUNE 14, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JUNE 14, 1978.
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS THOMAS RESTON.

Q. DO YOU KNOW IF ANYBODY FROM THE STATE DEPARTMENT IS
GOING WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT TO ISRAEL?

A. I DON'T KNOW THAT YET. I DON'T THINK THE DELEGATION
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HAS BEEN NAMED.

Q. YOU WERE ASKED YESTERDAY IF YOU THINK THE ISRAELI PER-
FORMANCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON CORRESPONDS TO OUR INTERPRE-
TATION OF WHAT WE SHOULD BE DOING UNDER RESOLUTION 425. DO
YOU HAVE AN ANSWER?

A. I SAW SOME STORIES THIS MORNING THAT PERHAPS ISRAEL
WAS TURNING OVER SOME AREAS THAT IT EVACUATED TO CHRISTIAN
MILITIA FORCES.

LET ME SAY THAT WE REGARD IT AS A GREAT OVER-SIMPLIFICATION
TO SAY THAT THIS HAPPENED AND TO IMPLY THAT UNIFIL WILL NOT

BE CARRYING OUT ITS MANDATE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON. UNITS OF
THE UNITED NATIONS' FORCES IN LEBANON HAVE ALREADY MOVED
INTO KEY SPOTS IN THE AREA FROM WHICH THE ISRAELIS JUST
WITHDREW.

THE PRESENCE IN THE AREA OF CHRISTIAN MILITIAS NEEDS TO
BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, BUT WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THE
UNITED NATIONS WILL BE ABLE TO DEAL WITH THIS SITUATION
SATISFACTORILY. CONSULTATIONS ARE NOW TAKING PLACE BE-
TWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON ON
WAYS TO HELP RE-ESTABLISH THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEBANESE
GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN LEBANON, WHICH IS A PRIME
OBJECTIVE OF THE U.N. PEACE-KEEPING MISSION AND WE CONSIDER

IT BEST NOT TO COMMENT ANY FURTHER ON THESE DEVELOPMENTS
AT THIS TIME.

Q. DO I UNDERSTAND YOU THEN TO BE SAYING THAT, IN FACT,
IT DOES NOT FULFILL THE LETTER OF IT, BUT YOU FOR PROGRAM-
MATIC PURPOSES WOULD NOT LIKE TO DRAW THAT TO ANYBODY'S
ATTENTION?

A. I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER YOU IN THE
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CONTEXT OF 425 TODAY. AS I SAY, THESE CONSULTATIONS ARE
TAKING PLACE ON HOW BEST THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEBANESE
STATE CAN BE ASSERTED THROUGHOUT ITS TERRITORY AND I AM
JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO COMMENT ANY FURTHER AT THIS
TIME.

Q. WHY DO YOU INSIST ON CALLING THEM CHRISTIAN MILITIAS
WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER OF LEBANON TODAY SAID THEY WERE
MILITARY UNITS ORDERED BACK TO THEIR BARRACKS AS PART
OF THE ALL LEBANESE ARMY? ON WHAT BASIS DO YOU DEFINE
THEM AS CHRISTIAN MILITIA?

A. WITH REGARD TO THAT, LET ME ADDRESS THAT SPECIFICALLY
WITH REGARD TO MR. HADDAD. HE HAS ALL ALONG BEEN AN
OFFICER IN THE LEBANESE ARMY. MANY OF THE MEN SERVING
WITH HIM HAVE BEEN MEMBERS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY. WE
UNDERSTAND THAT MR. HADDAD IS NOW IN TOUCH WITH THE
LEBANESE GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO COOPERATION WITH THE
UNITED NATIONS.

Q. BUT YOU HAVEN'T ANSWERED THE QUESTION YET WHY DO YOU
DEFINE THEM CHRISTIAN MILITIA; BECAUSE HE IS A CHRISTIAN?

A. I DON'T THINK ANY PARTICULAR IMPLICATION SHOULD BE
DRAWN FROM THE WAY I CHARACTERIZED IT. I THINK I TRIED TO
CLEAR UP AN AMBIGUITY THAT YOU HAD RAISED.

Q. DO YOU UNDERSTAND THIS IS AN ENDORSEMENT TO SA'D
HADDAD? ARE YOU ENDORSING SA'D HADDAD'S PRESENCE IN THE
SOUTH WITH THIS STATEMENT?

I MEAN THERE IS ONE PART IN YOUR FIRST STATEMENT SAYING
THE CHRISTIAN MILITIA NEEDS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT, THE
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PRESENCE OF THEM. COULD YOU PLEASE AMPLIFY ON THAT?

A. I DON'T REALLY WANT TO GET IN THE POSITION OF ENDORSING
OR NOT ENDORSING. WHAT I WOULD PREFER TO EMPHASIZE IS

THAT CONSULTATIONS ARE NOW TAKING PLACE ON HOW BEST TO REASSERT THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEBANESE STATE THROUGHOUT ITS TERRITORY AND I THINK THAT IS THE MAIN POINT. WHILE THESE CONSULTATIONS ARE TAKING PLACE, I THINK WE ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE A GREAT DEAL TO SAY FROM WASHINGTON.

Q. DID YOU TAKE HIM INTO ACCOUNT BECAUSE OF HIS RECENT TOUCH WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING I CAN OFFER TO YOU ON THAT.

Q. YOU BEGAN BY SAYING YOU HAD SEEN SOME STORIES IN THE NEWSPAPERS. HAVE THE ISRAELIS TURNED OVER SOME OF THE AREA TO CHRISTIAN MILITARY FORCES, CHRISTIAN MILITIA FORCES?

CAN YOU MAKE A STATEMENT THAT DOESN'T TELL US WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE NEWSPAPERS?

WHAT IS THE SITUATION AS THE STATE DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS IT ABOUT THE TURNING OVER OR THE NOT TURNING OVER?

A. I AM JUST GOING TO HAVE TO STICK WITH WHAT I SAID; THAT THE PRESENCE OF MILITIAS IN THE AREA IS JUST SOMETHING WHICH OBVIOUSLY NEEDS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

Q. THAT IS THE ONE THING I GET OUT OF YOUR STATEMENT. OTHERWISE THE REST OF IT TO ME IS INCOMPREHENSIBLE. CAN YOU TRY TO DESCRIBE THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AS YOU, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, UNDERSTAND IT TO BE?

A. I SAID YESTERDAY THAT WE WERE GETTING REPORTS IN FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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THE FIELD AS TO EXACTLY WHAT WAS GOING ON ON THE GROUND THERE AND WHAT WAS HAPPENING AND WHO WAS PLACED WHERE. I THINK THOSE REPORTS STILL ARE BEING RECEIVED AND I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE YOU A PRECISE HILL BY HILL WHO IS WHERE KIND OF DESCRIPTION OF WHAT IS GOING ON.

Q. ARE THE ISRAELIS COMPLYING WITH THE UN RESOLUTION OR ARE THEY NOT?

A. I SAID A MOMENT AGO I AM REALLY NOT IN A POSITION TO OFFER YOU ANY JUDGMENT ON THE CONTEXT OF RESOLUTION 425.

Q. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT REALLY WHAT YOU'RE SAYING HERE IS THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE INDUCEMENT, CERTAINLY FROM THE ISRAELIS, NO DOUBT FROM HADDAD'S PEOPLE AND POSSIBLY ON THE PART OF THE UN, TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM THE MILITIAS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AS REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON AND THE LEBANESE ARMY. IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TRYING

TO TELL US, THAT WE'RE WAITING FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO SOLVE THE ISSUE THAT WAY?

A. I THINK THAT THERE WILL BE, LATER ON THIS AFTERNOON, A STATEMENT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS WHICH MAY TOUCH ON YOUR QUESTION, AND I'M NOT IN A POSITION TO MAKE THE STATEMENT BEFORE THEY DO. LET ME SAY THAT MR. HADDAD, AS I SAID EARLIER, IS IN TOUCH WITH THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT ABOUT COOPERATING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS.

Q. MR. ERCKHARDT FROM THE UNITED NATIONS LAST NIGHT SAID THAT THE UN IS TRYING TO REESTABLISH THE CENTRAL LEBANESE AUTHORITY IN THE SOUTH AND NOT BY ACCEPTING HADDAD'S RULING IN THE AREA, BUT BY SENDING A HIGHER OFFICIAL FROM THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO THE SOUTH. WHAT YOU SAID NOW, IF UNCLASSIFIED

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YOU WANT TO CHARACTERIZE IT AS ENDORSEMENT OR NOT, IS GIVING CERTAIN WEIGHT TO SA'D HADDAD'S FORCES IN THE SOUTH WHICH WOULD CONTRADICT WHAT THE UN IS TRYING TO SAY.

A. I'M NOT REALLY IN A POSITION TO ADDRESS THAT.

Q. YOU SAID YESTERDAY THAT THE UNIFIL FULFILLS ITS TASK IN A VERY SATISFACTORY WAY. THE DAYAN NOTE TO WALDHEIM FROM YESTERDAY SAYS JUST THE OPPOSITE. IS THERE A WAY THAT THIS CONTRADICTION COULD BE SETTLED?

A. LET ME SAY THAT WE BELIEVE UNIFIL HAS BEEN DOING A GOOD JOB OF CONTROLLING THE AREA. HOWEVER, THE NATURE OF THE TERRAIN AND THE SITUATION IN SOUTH LEBANON ARE SUCH THAT OCCASIONAL INFILTRATION INTO THE AREA CONTROLLED BY UNIFIL CANNOT BE ELIMINATED TOTALLY. IT WOULD BE BEST FOR YOU TO ASK THE UN ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS, AND WE HAVE NOTHING FURTHER FOR YOU ON THIS MATTER.

Q. WELL, IF THERE IS OCCASIONAL INFILTRATION AND IT CAN'T BE CONTROLLED, DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS TO OFFER ON HOW TO MINIMIZE THIS INFILTRATION?

A. I THINK THAT I SAID THAT IT CANNOT BE TOTALLY CONTROLLED.

Q. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME CLOSER?

A. WE THINK THAT UNIFIL IS DOING A GOOD JOB IN ITS JOB OF TRYING TO CONTROL THE AREA.

Q. THERE'S NO SUBSTITUTE FOR UNIFIL, IS THAT WHAT YOU SAID?

A. THE ULTIMATE PURPOSE OF THIS WHOLE EXERCISE IS FOR THE

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT OF LEBANON TO EXERT ITS CONTROL THROUGH-
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OUT THE TERRITORY OF LEBANON.

2. THE FOLLOWING ARE QUESTIONS TAKEN AT NOON BRIEFING,
JUNE 12, 1978 AND POSTED JUNE 13, 1978.

Q. IS THERE ANY CURRENT MOVEMENT TOWARD DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND ANGOLA?

A. THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN OUR POLICY VIS-A-VIS THE
LUANDA GOVERNMENT.

Q. HAS OUR NON-RECOGNITION OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT
HANDICAPPED US IN DEALING WITH THE FRONT LINE STATES ON
NAMIBIA?

A. DESPITE OUR NON-RECOGNITION OF THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT,
WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MEET WITH ANGOLAN OFFICIALS WHEN
NECESSARY TO DISCUSS NAMIBIA. U.S. OFFICIALS (AMBASSADOR
DONALD MCHENRY AND AMBASSADOR DONALD EASUM, RESPECTIVELY)
PARTICIPATED IN TWO CONTACT GROUP VISITS TO LUANDA, IN
NOVEMBER 1977 AND FEBRUARY 1978.
CHRISTOPHER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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